Subsidy to Fishermen

3579. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of subsidy admissible at present to the traditional fishermen for the out board motors upto 10 HP;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the amount of the subsidy;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the fishermen Cooperatives would be exempted from the payment of import duty on importing the board motors and spare; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) An amount of Rs. 10,000/- is provided to the traditional fishermen as subsidy towards the cost of out board motor upto 10 HP for motorisation of traditional craft under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries'.

(b) and (c) The Ninth Plan Schemes have not yet been finalised.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, specified parts of out board motors are exempted from basic customs duty, if imported by State Fisheries Corporation or any Fisheries Cooperative Federation recognised by the State Government concerned.

Encroachment on Forest Land

3580. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 444 on 3.9.96 and state :

(a) whether the comments from the Sikkim Government on the report of the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhubaneswar in regard to encroachment, illegal transfer and sale of the Forest Khas Land and encroachment of reserve forest in North Sikkim have been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) It has been intimated by the Government of Sikkim that based on the report of Chief Conservator of Forests(C), Bhubaneswar, the Forest Department has filed a case in the court of District Magistrate, North Sikkim, for recovery of forest land and action is being initiated under relevant acts and rules.

Cases of Character Verification

3581. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of cases of Character verifications etc., of the employees selected in the Government jobs are long pending with the concerned Police authorities of the Delhi Police;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some cases are pending for more than a month;

(d) the policy of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the action contemplated in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) No case of character verification is pending with the Delhi Police (Special Branch) for more than one month. In accordance with the standing instructions, the process of verification is required to be completed within a period of six to eight weeks. However, cases of verification are normally disposed of by the Delhi Police within three to four weeks only.

[Translation]

Sugar Export

3582. SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of sugar for which export licence has been issued to each of the sugar mill as against its production of sugar in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government have not exported sugar for the last two months; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the loss suffered by the Government due to this ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) So far no licence for export of sugar has been issued to any individual sugar mill in the country including mills in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Government does not undertake any export of sugar. However, it issues release orders for export of sugar as per the requests of the export agencies under the Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958 which has since been repealed and the Registration-cum-Allocation Certificate (RCAC) issued by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) after decanalisation as per the Sugar Export Promotion (Repeal) Ordinance, 1997 (No. 4 of 1997).

(c) Does not arise.